



Dear Friends

October is traditionally the month of the rosary. October 7th is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. It all started in 1571, when the Catholic League entered into battle against the Ottoman Empire to protect Italy from invasion. The Turks were on a move to take over all of Europe, killing people and forcing Islamic conversion on survivors. They had conquered the Middle East and Mediterranean Islands of Cyprus and Crete. Italy was next. As the battle was approaching, Pope Pius V called on various religious communities throughout Europe to join him in praying the rosary, including public recitations, to defeat the Islamic threat. Going into battle, every man in the Catholic League's forces carried a rosary. Their fleet was no match for the competition - the Catholic League's forces were vastly outnumbered. Miraculously, the Catholic League returned victorious after a day-long battle known as the Battle of Lepanto that took place off the coast of Greece. In thanksgiving for Mary's intercession and protection, Pope Pius V declared the day - October 7 - as a feast day for Our Lady of the Rosary. After the feast day was established, the entire month of October was dedicated to the rosary in 1884 by Pope Leo XIII.

The Rosary is traditionally claimed to have been revealed to St. Dominic (1170-1221). However, the practice of reciting prayers repeatedly goes back even before that. Members of monastic orders who did not know how to read would repeat the **Our Father** and **Hail Mary** several times because they were unable to pray reading the Psalms. The Rosary goes beyond repeating prayers several times; it helps lead one closer to God. Through the Mysteries of the Rosary, we are able to meditate on the life of Jesus with the help of His Mother, Mary. This devotion to Mary is not worshipping Mary, but asking her to lead us closer to her Son, Jesus. The Rosary is not just a recitation of prayers, but a meditation on the grace of God.

Saying the Rosary is extremely easy and takes about 15 minutes or so to say - not much time to spend to receive help with the serious problems all of us face today! The presence and protection of our Mother Mary has immense power - requested, channeled, and honored through the rosary. Countless people, famous and unknown, have been praying the Rosary for centuries to obtain help with countless problems in life and the results that people have obtained by doing so have been amazing. There have been people cured from serious sicknesses, people have amazingly gotten off drugs, and many other difficult problems have been completely solved through the Rosary! I ask you, pray the Rosary; it is an old, beautiful and powerful prayer. Offer one decade of Rosary for our parish each day - the prayers of so many people through the intercession of Mary would bring countless graces for all of us. Saint John Paul II wrote in his 2002 apostolic letter Rosarium "Virginis Mariae", when he announced the Year of the Rosary and the addition of the Luminous Mysteries, "With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."

Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us,

Fr. Krzysztof